

The Bulletin



The relationship between tech companies and lawmakers; analysis from Inés Flor García in this week's top story.



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Source Charles Deluvio on Unsplash

TRUMP'S TWITTER AND FACEBOOK BAN SHEDS LIGHT ON THE POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN TECH COMPANIES AND THE RULE OF LAW

BY INÉS FLOR GARCÍA

ON JANUARY 6TH, TRUMP SUPPORTERS STORMED THE US CAPITOL IN AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ELECTION CERTIFICATION. AS SUGGESTED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE MOB ATTACK WAS UNQUESTIONABLY INCITED BY FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE INSURRECTION, BIG TECH COMPANIES SUCH AS TWITTER, FACEBOOK, GOOGLE, REDDIT, TWITCH, SHOPIFY, AND SNAPCHAT DECIDED TO INDEFINITELY SUSPEND TRUMP'S ACCOUNT.

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Elections

PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: A FIGHT FOR SECOND PLACE

BY JOÃO BERNARDO SOUSA

On Sunday, Portugal re-elected Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa as its President for the next five years. The result was more than expected, but the significance of this election goes far beyond Marcelo's victory. It raises fundamental questions about the future political landscape of a country considered, until recently, immune to right-wing populisms.

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THIS WAS BY FAR
THE MOST
TELEVISED
ELECTION, WITH
ELECTORAL
DEBATES IN
WHICH EVERY
CANDIDATE
FACED EACH
OTHER.





Economy & Trade

IRELAND'S 'THRIVING' ECONOMY: A LESSON IN DECEIVING GDP



St. Patrick's Day celebration, 2018 CREDIT: gdtography, Creative Commons

BY DEVIN SEAN MARTIN

Coronavirus lockdowns have choked and starved virtually every economy in Europe, from local businesses in the Italian countryside to Europe's mega-corporations. One country, though, has managed to evade 2020's tyrannical economic raid: Ireland. The island nation is on track to be one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, all while seeing record high unemployment figures and a crippled tourism industry. On the surface, Ireland might appear to have achieved economic refuge in a world at war with a virus, but there is more to the Emerald Isle than meets the eye. Ireland's economic success is more a credit to a legacy of low corporate tax and lucky geography than a mimicable strategy, but what should the rest of Europe make of Ireland's profit?

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Society and Culture



ITALY'S STATE SECULARISM: FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS

By Rebecca Wenmoth

Favoring Catholicism over Islam, from school benches to mosques' building permits, Italy seems to have given its very own twist to the concept of religious neutrality. With this article, Rebecca Wenmoth finely displays the incoherences which puts at odds the Roman nation's official state secularism with its effective implementation.

Read the full article on our [website](#)



DEMOCRACY AT THE SYSTEM CHANGE: A DREAM COME TRUE?

By Balázs Sean Brandt

In the framework of the project "Democracy is Europe", UEF and JEF Hungary are organizing a series of two-part talks, which aims to draw inspiration from the change of regime and the events of 30 years ago to solve the current challenges of democracy in Hungary and the European Union. We will have the first conversation on 22 January, the main topic of which, in addition to recalling the events, will be how we thought about democracy and Europe at the time.

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Social Fabric



The Calais 'Jungle' refugee camp before it was demolished.
Photo: Wikimedia, Creative Commons

“WE KNOW THEY DON’T WANT US HERE”: STORIES OF FRENCH POLICE’S SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION AGAINST REFUGEES

BY KONSTANTINA MIRTZANI

On November 23rd 2020, French police violently dismantled a makeshift migrant camp in the heart of Paris, clashing with migrants and activists, who were protesting the profound lack of accommodation and infrastructure for the country’s refugees and immigrants. Images of French police officers violently removing the protesters turned the spotlight once again on the country’s issue of police brutality.

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SYSTEMATIC
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Europe in the World

THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: PERSPECTIVES OF AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT IN A DEADLOCK

BY FRYDERYK LACHAISE,
TRANSLATED BY MARIA POPCZYK, WOJCIECH ZAJĄCZKOWSKI

Three years ago, Witold Jurasz, a former Polish diplomat with experience in the East and the current director of the Centre for Strategic Analysis, stated on the Defence24 website that the Eastern Partnership is “de facto dead.”

This opinion on that significant political project, which probably would not have been launched without Poland’s involvement, was formulated shortly after Association Agreements between the EU and Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia came into force. However, looking at recent developments beyond Poland’s Eastern border, it is hard to resist the impression that this initiative, aimed at bringing East European countries, the Caucasus, and the EU closer, has not been entirely successful.

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LOOKING OUTSIDE LIPA

BY NICHOLAS KULAWIAK

“ In late December 2020, the slow-moving humanitarian crisis playing out in Northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) reached a critical inflection point. A day after the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which had been providing humanitarian support to the Lipa migrant camp, declared the facility closed due to the Bosnian government’s lack of support, it was destroyed by a fire likely started by the camp’s former residents.

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